

BT/CT/RAD Group

Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2010

Present: Katie Brown, Julie Nassif (Facilitator), Cheryl Gauthier, Caryn Conley, Tanya Swanson, Scott Gordon, Pete Kane, Deb Carter (Minutes)

Next meeting: October 5, 2010, 10AM – 11AM, Room 133

I. Announcements

A volunteer will be needed to take minutes at the October 5th meeting, as I will be unavailable that day.

II. Discussion

1. The group agreed that RAD should be included in the BT/CT meetings from now on.
2. The CDC site visit on 9/16/10 went very well. There was a Chemistry SME present, but not a Bio expert.
 - a. Cheryl gave a presentation on the BTRL, including a virtual tour of the 404 suite. She discussed staffing issues, sentinel training and drills recommencing, first responder trainings and future steps for the lab.
 - b. Sandy talked about how knowledge gained from managing the 2009 flu helped with preparation for EEE this year. She also talked about cross training staff, computer system updates and BioWatch.
 - c. Dina gave a presentation on the IML and systems integration. The state of Massachusetts would like to centralize all computer services and Dina explained why some applications should remain separate.
 - d. Julie gave the visitors a tour of the Chemistry Threat Response Lab. She discussed the (numerous) proficiency and surge exercises. Julie also talked about some of the recent cases in the news: the Sulfur-Mustard response, the cyanide suicide...
 - e. Epidemiology presented in the afternoon.
 - f. On Day 2, most of the team went to 250 Washington Street. Tracey (Chem SME) went to the Level 3 training being held in Fall River.

III. Department Updates

1. Chemical Threat Response Lab

The computer systems are being updated and brought on LIMS, integration of the system and the various analytical instruments is ongoing. Data management will be easier once completed.

2. Epidemiology

Three people have been added to the epidemiology staff.

3. Emergency Preparedness Network

An "umbrella" All Hazards Plan is envisioned, allowing all areas to communicate effectively and simplifying ground level planning.

4. Bioterrorism Response Lab

The IML is live as of 9/21/10. For BT, this is a great advantage as previously three different systems were used to enter results. E-mail

notification will continue to inform people when samples are sent to other labs, such as PCR, Chemistry...